



MASSWILDLIFE

Massachusetts Division  
of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Hunter Education  
Program Newsletter

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## MASSACHUSETTS HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

# INSTRUCTORS' CHALLENGE

Volume XVI, Issue V

February 2017



## *Turkey Federation Honors several with ties to MassWildlife*

In late January, New England Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) held an inaugural combined Chapter Awards Banquet and honored several people with ties to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

James Bolduc, a MassWildlife Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor from Colrain was honored as one of the first inductees into the New England Turkey Hunting Hall of Fame. James Bolduc was honored for being the first president of the first Massachusetts (NWTF) state chapter. Jim petitioned the NWTF in 1983 and was able to establish the first chapter in Massachusetts



Also inducted with Bolduc from Massachusetts was Jim Cardoza a retired MassWildlife Turkey Biologist. Cardoza, from Cape Cod, was recognized for his efforts in restoring wild turkeys to Massachusetts and his service with the National Wild Turkey chapters in Massachusetts.

Lastly, two Worcester County women were honored with awards recognizing their volunteer efforts for NWTF. Kelly Dalbec, a MassWildlife Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor and Jennifer Ford, a clerk at MassWildlife's Field Headquarters were recipients of the Top Women In The Outdoors (WITO) event held in New England. They also received the first New England Annie Oakley award for their volunteer efforts. Kelly and Jennifer received their awards at NWTF's National Conference in Nashville Tennessee earlier this month.

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1 Rabbit Hill Road | Westborough, MA 01581 | [mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife)

Dear Hunter Education Instructors,

Thank you for all you do to help preserve our hunting heritage and for your tremendous efforts towards ensuring that all new hunters are safe, responsible and knowledgeable.

One of the main goals of the *IHEA-USA Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal* is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and teaching experience that can help improve the education process of the more than 700,000 new hunters annually. In order to fulfill that goal we need the input of instructors and educators in the field. Please consider submitting your stories about teaching techniques that work for you, thoughts about the state of our hunting heritage today, anecdotal stories about "it happened to me" in class, visual training aids, etc... Don't worry about spelling or grammar or anything else but your message and email directly to: [susiekiefer@msn.com](mailto:susiekiefer@msn.com). Your input could help other instructors become better trainers.

We need pictures too! Please send us your field and class photos so that we can reflect real life training situations to compliment articles. Images sent to us electronically are preferred however, you can also mail your pictures or save your images on a disc and send to the address in my signature below. Please indicate a credit caption for each image and do not send originals as they will not be returned. To be considered for inclusion, images must reflect safe and responsible firearm handling and hunting or teaching situations. Images to be considered for the Journal cover must be sent electronically and must also be high resolution.

Every submission that is chosen to print receives a gift from supporting manufacturers!

Editorial deadlines for the next few issues in 2017 are as follows:

**Summer 2017**

Editorial deadline: May 1

Print date: Aug. 8

Complete mail/ship: Aug. 15

**Fall 2017**

Editorial deadline: July 3

Print date: Oct. 3

Complete mail/ship: Oct.

**Winter 2017**

Editorial deadline: Oct. 2

Print date: Dec. 15

Complete mail/ship: Dec.

**Send To:**

Susie Kiefer, Editor

***HEA-USA Hunter & Shooting  
Sports Education Journal***

P.O. Box 432

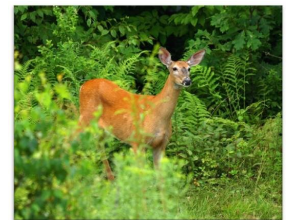
Wellington, CO 80549

[susiekiefer@msn.com](mailto:susiekiefer@msn.com)

## ***Preliminary Deer Harvest Summary***

MassWildlife reports that the preliminary statewide deer harvest for 2016 is 12,233. The preliminary harvest figures by season are as follows:

- **Youth Deer Hunt Day (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>):** 128
- **Archery Season:** 4,661
- **Shotgun Season:** 4,907 (with an additional 53 deer taken during the Quabbin Hunt)
- **Primitive Firearms Season:** 2,484



During the Shotgun Season, 58 deer were taken over 4 days during the Blue Hills Reservation's Annual Controlled Hunt; this equates to about 10 deer removed per square mile of hunted land. Both archery and primitive firearms seasons saw record harvests in 2016. Total harvest was near record levels as well. Harvest was likely low in 2015 due to unseasonably warm weather, lack of snow, and an abundance of food, such that deer did not have to move as often and as far during legal hunting hours.

# Winter is Upon Us

## Ice Strength and Safety Tips

This ice strength and safety information is presented for the benefit of ice anglers and other winter sports people recreating on iced-over bodies of water. The figures in the table below are for clear, blue ice on lakes and ponds. Reduce strength values 15% for clear blue, river ice. Slush or snow (white) ice is only one-half the strength of blue ice and can be very treacherous. "Honeycombed" ice, which occurs in the spring or during major winter thaws as the ice is melting, is the most dangerous ice, and best avoided unless the angler is certain there is a safe layer of solid ice beneath the honeycombed surface. Anglers should also be aware that many lakes and ponds contain spring holes and other areas of current that may create deceptively dangerous thin spots in areas that are otherwise safe. Always use caution, and don't venture out onto unfamiliar waters without checking ice thickness frequently.

ICE STRENGTH AND SAFETY	
Under 2"	STAY OFF
4"	Activities on foot
5"	Snowmobile or ATV
8"-12"	Car or small pickup truck
12"-15"	Medium truck

\*Permissible loads shown apply to new, clear or blue ice. New ice is stronger than old, white ice. Always consider ice potentially dangerous.

### How can you tell if ice is safe?

There are no guarantees. Always consider ice potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring holes, inlets or outlets. Don't venture onto ice-bound rivers or streams as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

### What if you, a companion, or pet fall through the ice?

As with any emergency, don't panic! Call for help if there are people nearby.

While it doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions, you have more time than you might think; typically 2-5 minutes and perhaps longer if you are in good, physical condition.

Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time aiding your buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. Try to pull your body up using "ice pins" that should be hanging around your neck. Once your torso is on firm

ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember that ice you previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice, don't waste precious time, you need to warm up and dry out. If you are in a remote area, this means getting to or starting a campfire. If you are in a more ur-

ban setting get to a car or house. Once there, get out of wet clothes, change into dry clothes to get warmed up and seek advice from your physician on medical attention. You need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia.

If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "Reach-Throw-Go" If you are unable to **reach** your friend from shore, **throw** him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, **go** for help before you also become a victim. Get medical assistance for the victim immediately.

When walking on or near ice, keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue the pet, go for help. Well meaning pet owners can too easily become rescue victims when trying to assist their pets.



## Remembering Pete

With deep regret, we share that our friend and colleague Peter Mirick, retired editor of *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine, avid sportsman and herpetologist, passed away on December 19 from cancer. Pete began his career with MassWildlife in 1977 as a staff writer for the magazine and served as an assistant biologist before becoming the magazine editor in 1981. During his time with the Division, he earned a Master's Degree in Biology from Worcester State College. Pete was an avid herpetologist, conducting research on the endangered Black Rat Snake and assisting with projects related to other reptiles and amphibians. During his career, Pete was active with professional organizations including

The Wildlife Society, New England Outdoor Writers Association, and the Association of Conservation Information. He received a number of awards for his writing and editing and was the lead editor of the "Trapping and



Furbearer Management in North American Wildlife Conservation" publication, which is used by state conservation agencies across the country. He also authored the recently published "Massachusetts Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles." Pete was a strong believer in educating people, particularly youth, about wildlife conservation and was a passionate advocate for hunters, anglers, and trappers. He will be greatly missed by many, including his friends and family, his MassWildlife "family", natural resource professionals, naturalists, and sportsmen and women.

## Calendar Events

**March 9: [Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting](#), Westborough** – The meeting will take place at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters Office located at 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough from 1:30 – 4:30 P.M. in the Southwest Meeting Room, Room #103. Please note: If you have a disability or medical condition and would like to request special accommodations, please contact Susan Sacco at 508-389-6342.

**March 18: Basic Rod Building Class, Westborough** – Learn how to build your very own fishing rod at MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough from 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Master rod builder Ray Cote from Cote's fly Shop will lead the class. There is a \$140 fee payable to Cote's fly shop for all associated materials and rod building bench which you need to order prior to the class. This class is for fly or spinning rods. Pre-Registration is **Mandatory** – please contact Jim Lagacy to pre-register at 508-389-6309 and [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us) or Todd Girard at 508-248-2247 and [todd.girard@townofcharlton.net](mailto:todd.girard@townofcharlton.net)

**March 25, MassWildlife at Land Trust Conference, Worcester** – The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition's annual conference will be held at Worcester Technical High School. Renowned biologist, author and researcher E. O. Wilson will be the Plenary Speaker. Stop by the MassWildlife exhibit table and chat with staff, pick up some free publications and a publication order form. Information on the agency's lands and new trails policy will also be available.

**April 23: Angler Education Program Display & Casting Program, Springfield** – come learn to cast and have fun at the Springfield Science Museum Earth Day Festival, 21 Edwards Street in Springfield, 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. \*Open to the Public. For more information, contact the Springfield Science Museum at 413-263-6800 x325